

## RESOURCE DOCUMENT 2: INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

### Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

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**Impacts of Growth:** The Gallatin County Health and Human Services Department has expanded their services to provide a higher level of health safety throughout the community. More home visits as well as an adult immunization clinic have been instituted in recent years. In 1998, 4,476 immunizations were administered, not including flu shots, rising to 4,754 in 1999.<sup>7</sup>

#### 2.2.1.B Environmental Health Services:

Environmental health services in Gallatin County consist of many programs and review procedures including wastewater treatment, subdivision review, radon program, public education and facility inspections. The Environmental Health Department strives to improve citizen health by applying public health principles in order to:

- Reduce the occurrence of preventable disease
- Employ preventative measures to minimize environmental health impacts, and elicit cooperation in the preservation of the environment
- Foster relationships between health services and public and private agencies
- Maintain core public health services

#### **Organization:**

Gallatin City-County Health Board: A nine-member governing board including 7 residents, one County Commissioner or representative, and one City Commissioner or representative.

Health Officer: Oversees the operation of the two divisions of county health services

Health and Human Services Director: Oversees the operation of the Environmental Health Services Division

**Impacts of Growth:** The number of new septic permits issued by the Gallatin County Department of Environmental Health can indirectly measure growth and construction throughout the county. As more private wastewater facilities are built, both services and potential contamination of water sources increase. The number of septic permits issued greatly increased throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s, rising to a peak in 1994. However, the number of permits are on the rise again and have continued at record levels throughout the 1990s.

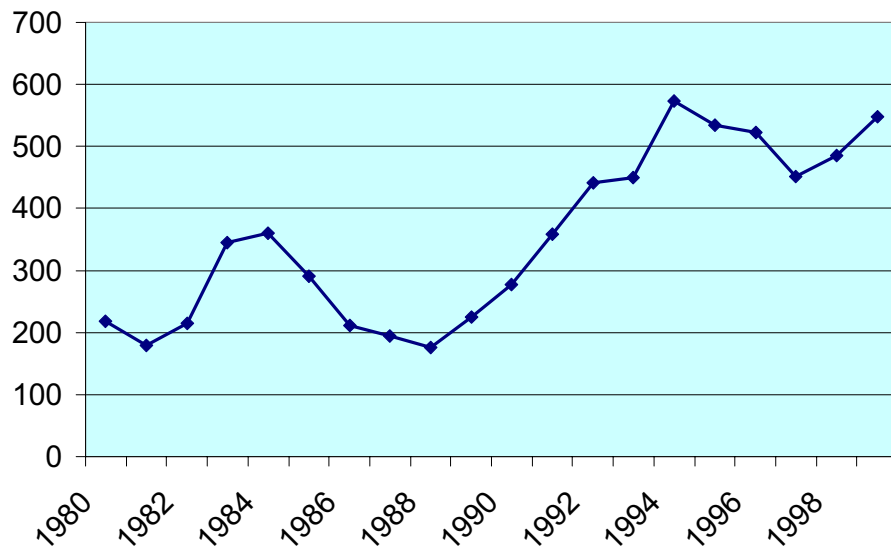
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<sup>7</sup> City-County Health Department

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Number of Septic Permits Issued

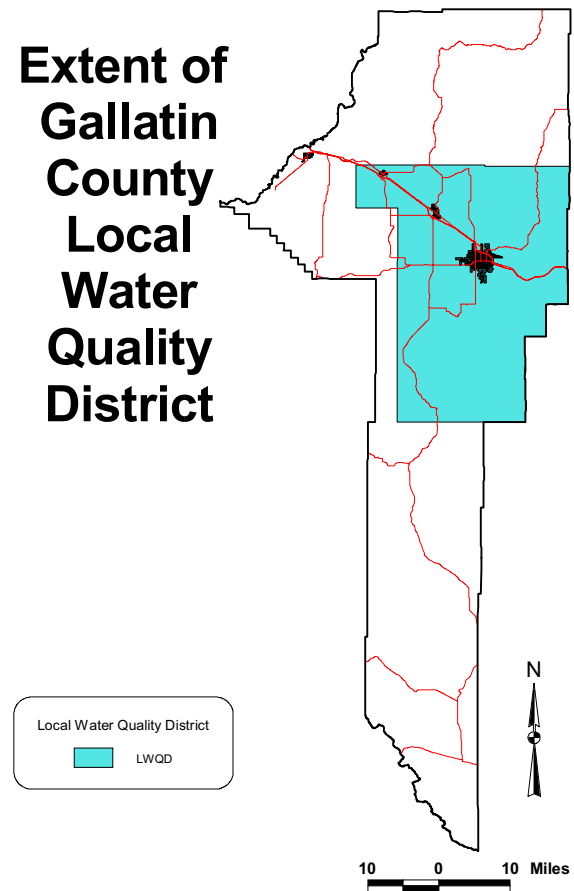


Source: Department of Environmental Health

#### 2.2.1.C Local Water Quality District:

The Local Water Quality District (LWQD) is a service provided by Gallatin County to specifically address the quality of water in the Gallatin Valley, from Bozeman Pass to Manhattan, south to Moose Creek in Gallatin Canyon. The district was created by a resolution passed by local city and county commissions to “...protect, preserve, and improve the quality of surface and ground water.” The LWQD is not regulatory. Charged with providing information necessary for making sound public and private land use and development decisions essential to prevent and minimize water pollution, the LWQD concentrates on public education programs and water quality data collection throughout the district. Some general program goals include, but are not limited to:

#### Extent of Gallatin County Local Water Quality District



Gallatin County Planning Department  
April 2001

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- The establishment of a district-wide groundwater monitoring program
- The assessment and monitoring of water quality
- An expansion of the existing hydro-geologic database
- Development of municipal well head protection programs
- Public education on pollution prevention and importance of water quality protection

#### ***Organization:***

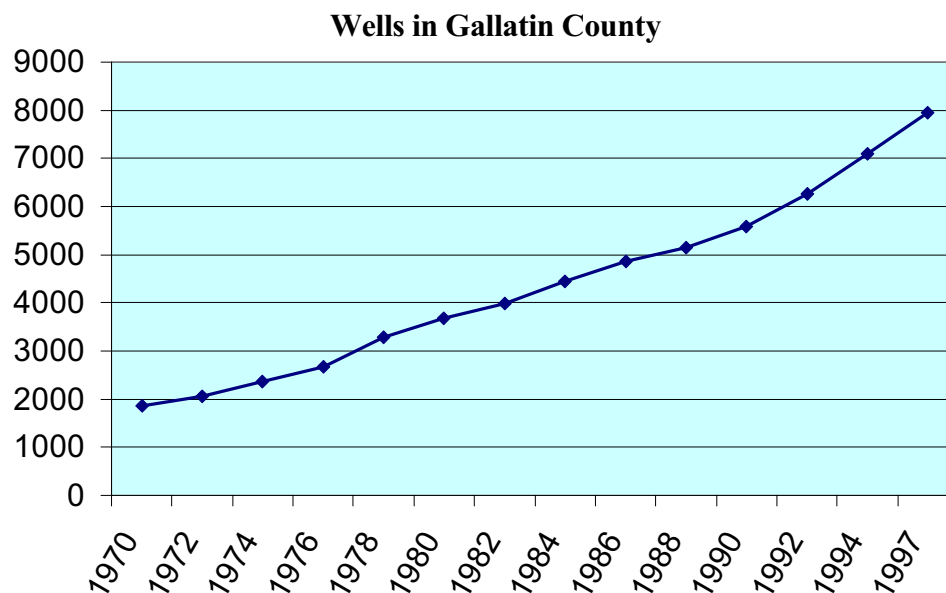
Local Water Quality Board:

Managing board consisting of one member from Board of Health, Conservation District, County Commission, a city official from Bozeman, Belgrade and Manhattan and 3 members appointed by city officials

Local Water Quality District Director:

Oversees the operation of LWQD programs and services

***Impacts of Growth:*** Between 1990 and 1997 the number of wells in Gallatin County increased by almost 50%.<sup>8</sup> The significant increase in the number of wells and septic systems constructed throughout the county places more pressure on water resources while increasing potential sources of pollution. The largest impact growth may pose to groundwater is pollution from individual septic systems and localized chemical spills.<sup>9</sup> It will be important to closely monitor water quality and resources as the county continues to grow.



Source: Local Water Quality District

<sup>8</sup> Local Water Quality District

<sup>9</sup> The Gallatin Watershed Sourcebook

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#### 2.2.2 Fire Protection:

Gallatin County has three of the five different types of fire agencies described by state law—County Fire, Fire Districts and Fire Service Areas. Currently, there are thirteen Fire Districts and five Fire Service Areas in the county,<sup>10</sup> while the County Fire Agency provides wildland fire protection to areas not covered by other agencies. In addition to fire agencies providing services such as first response, structure protection, emergency and educational services, municipal fire departments and some county fire districts review new subdivision and development activity to ensure safe and accessible design standards.

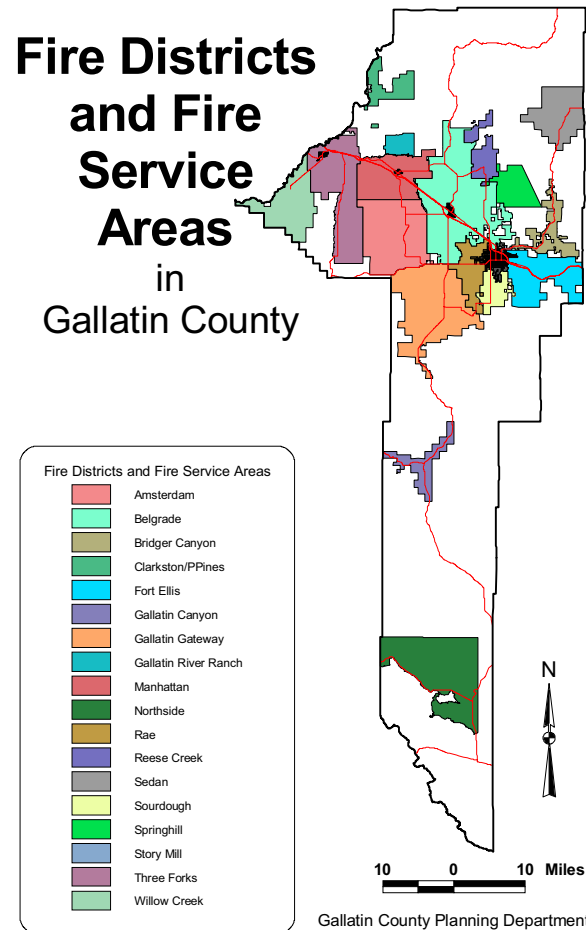
#### *Organizations:*<sup>11</sup>

##### County Fire:

Provides no structure protection, only wildland services in areas of the county not serviced by fire districts or service areas. Directed by a County Fire Warden and five deputies coordinating with other local fire organizations including the BLM, DNRC and USFS, this agency is directly overseen by the Board of County Commissioners.

##### Fire District:

Created by a petition of the residents, this agency is directly overseen by an elected Board of Trustees who determine taxes to be levied. The County Commission only acts to levy taxes for a fire district; it has no authority over the board.



<sup>10</sup> Office of the County Clerk and Recorder

<sup>11</sup> Information provided by the County Fire Warden

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Fire Service Area:

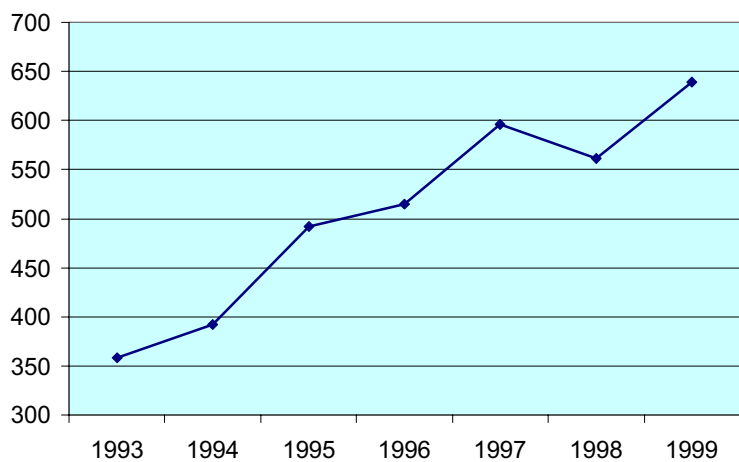
Created by a petition of the residents, this agency is directly managed by an appointed Board of Trustees and overseen by the County Commission. A Fire Service Area is funded through fee payments instead of a tax levy.

Fire Council:

Inter-agency fire organization that acts as a working group to help manage agency cooperation and protocol. The council has no authority related to any fire agency.

**Impacts of Growth:** Increased growth is creating a large demand for increased protective services throughout the county. As an example, the Belgrade City & Rural Fire Department responded to an all time high of 639 emergency dispatches in 1999. This represents an increase of 78% since 1993. As rapid growth rates continue, the pressures facing fire and emergency services will continue to be in high demand.

**Belgrade Fire Emergency Dispatch Responses**



Source: Belgrade City/Rural Fire Station

#### 2.2.3 Law Enforcement Services:

Law enforcement services provided by Gallatin County range from prosecutions by the Office of the County Attorney to arrests and traffic control. In addition to basic law enforcement services, the Gallatin County Sheriff's Department supports "Crime Stoppers" and "Neighborhood Watch" educational programs as well as the five county cooperative Missouri River Drug Task Force. Another important aspect of law enforcement services is the Gallatin County Detention Center, which maintains a holding capacity of 45 individuals—plans for improvements or a new facility are currently under discussion. Municipal law enforcement services are also provided by the cities of West Yellowstone, Three Forks, Manhattan, Belgrade and Bozeman. Gallatin County also provides 9-1-1 Communication and Support Services for emergency safety and protective services. Objectives for 9-1-1 services include public education, records management emergency/crime prevention, response, and community support. Through an inter-local agreement, Gallatin County funds 55% of the 9-1-1 services and the City of Bozeman funds 45%.

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#### ***Organization:***

Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office:	An elected Sheriff and an appointed undersheriff oversee law enforcement services for the entire county, retaining jurisdictional authority for all areas in Gallatin County
Office of the County Attorney:	An elected County Attorney and seven appointed deputies provide legal services for Gallatin County government agencies
911 Communication Services Director:	The director manages the 9-1-1 Communications and Support Services Department, ensuring efficient and productive emergency services and response
911 Administrative Board:	Composed of equal portions of city and county representatives, the board provides advisory services to the 9-1-1 Director

***Impacts of Growth:*** Rapid growth in Gallatin County has increased demand for law enforcement services across the board. From traffic control and law enforcement dispatches to felony prosecutions, increased demand for law enforcement is accompanying growth.

The holding capacity of the Gallatin County Detention Center was 45 individuals prior to the 2000 remodel of the facility to add juvenile holding areas. However, since 1997, the average daily population of the detention center exceeded 50 individuals.

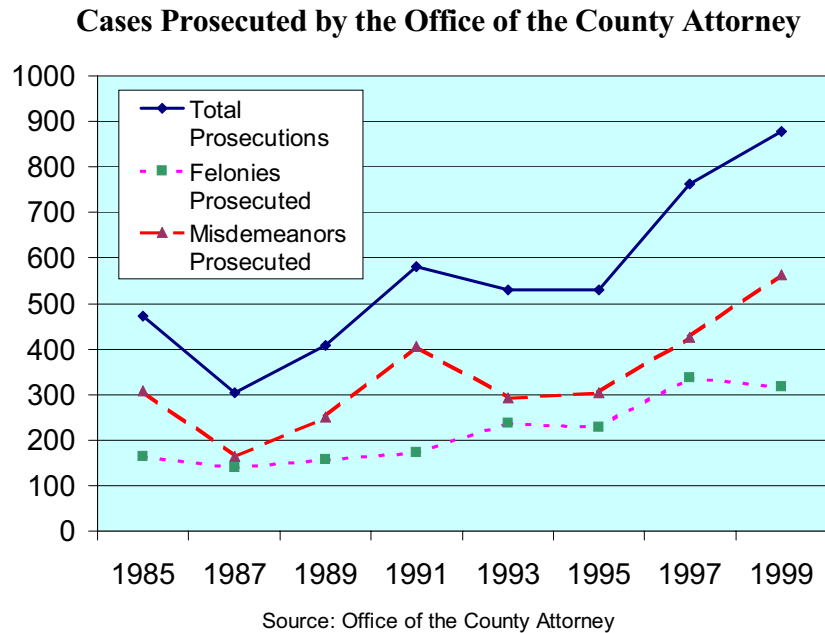
Law enforcement dispatches by the Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office increased by nearly 50% between 1988 and 1998 while staffing has remained constant at 34 sworn officers. There are currently 33 sworn officers in the department. Non-emergency calls for law enforcement assistance were responded to only if a deputy was available for dispatch. The demand for non-emergency law enforcement service may be greater than the total number of actual dispatches since officers were not always available to respond to calls.

Misdemeanor and felony prosecutions by the Office of the County Attorney have increased about 85% in the last decade and a half, from 473 prosecutions in 1985, to 879 in 1999. More recently, the number of misdemeanor prosecutions by the Office of the County Attorney increased from 303 in 1995, to 563 in 1999.

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#### 2.2.4 Disaster and Emergency Services:

Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) is an organizational service provided by Gallatin County to mitigate the impacts of potential emergencies and disasters. DES works as a cooperative agency that coordinates planning and services with several emergency and disaster response units throughout the county, state and nation. DES maintains action plans for various natural disasters including major fires, floods, and earthquakes, in addition to human caused emergencies including chemical spills, nuclear attack and many other potential emergency situations. DES maintains an Emergency Operation Center in the County Courthouse which serves as an incident command center to coordinate emergency services during a disaster, such as the Summer 2000 wildfires in the Gallatin Canyon and Maudlow/Toston areas. Due to courthouse renovations, DES is currently locating a new Emergency Operation Center.

##### *Organization:*

DES Coordinator:

Gallatin County contracts DES services from the City of Bozeman. Currently, the DES Coordinator is the Staff Captain of the Bozeman Fire Department. The DES Coordinator maintains emergency preparedness, cooperation and communication between various local, state and national organizations.